

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-07 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 /025 W

----- 102677

R 290800Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3061

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUWAIT 2260

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BEXP, XF, KU

SUBJ: VISIT CODEL ABOUREZK TO KUWAIT

REF: A) STATE 114127 B) STATE 119530

1. VISIT SENATOR ABOUREZK AND DELEGATION SOUTH DAKOTA BUSINESSMEN TO KUWAIT MAY 27-28 PROVIDED CLASSIC EXAMPLE CONFUSION CREATED WHEN EMBASSY NOT GIVEN SOLE RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS. ALTHOUGH SENATOR SEEMED PLEASED WITH KUWAIT STOP-OVER, GREAT DEAL OF IMPROVISATION REQUIRED WHEN FOREIGN MINISTRY FOUND IT NECESSARY CANCEL ON MORNING PARTY'S ARRIVAL APPOINTMENT WITH ACTING PRIME MINISTER AND DINNER FOR SENATOR AND PARTY DUE TO "UNSCHEDULED" VISIT CYPRUS PRESIDENT MAKARIOS ON SAME DATES. LOCAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ALSO "OFFENDED" WHEN FORMIN SCHEDULED SENATOR TO MEET WITH SHEIKH SALEM (FORMER KUWAITI AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON) AT SAME TIME IT HAD ARRANGED SESSION WITH LEADERS OF LOCAL CHAMBER WITH VISITNG SOUTH DAKOTA DELEGATION.

2. DESPITE CONFUSION, EMBASSY PROVIDED SUITABLE PROGRAM FOR SENATOR INCLUDING EMBASSY BRIEFING, TWO PRESS CONFERENCES, MEETING WITH GRADUATE SOCIETY AND BUFFET DINNER AT RESIDENCE TO MEET WITH LOCAL BUSINESSMEN. INDIVIDUAL APPOINTMENTS WERE MADE FOR BUSINESSMEN IN
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GROUP WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS IN RESIDENT COMMERCIAL AND FIN-

ANCIAL COMMUNITY. INTERESTS WERE GENERALLY THOSE DESCRIBED REFTEL (B), ALTHOUGH MOST MEMBERS DELEGATION DID NOT SEEM HAVE CLEAR IDEA OF WHAT THEY WERE ATTEMPTING TO ACCOMPLISH IN KUWAIT. SENATOR WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN ARRANGING FOR DEPOSITS BY GOK IN SOUTH DAKOTA BANKS AND IN PROVIDING FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC COVERAGE OF VISIT. DELEGATION'S OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER EXPERIENCED PARTICULAR FRUSTRATION IN EFFORTS TO PHOTOGRAPH KUWAITI REFINERY AND OIL FIELD INSTALLATIONS WHICH LOCAL AUTHORITIES CONSIDER "HIGHLY SENSITIVE". EMBASSY COULD HAVE MADE APPROPRIATE ARRANGMENTS IF GIVEN ADEQUATE WARNING.

3. IN MEETINGS WITH PRESS AND KUWAITI OFFICIALS, SENATOR TOOK USUAL PRO-ARAB LINE WHICH DELIGHTED LOCAL AUDIENCES. IN EMBASSY'S JUDGEMENT, GOK OFFICIALS DISPLAYED USUAL INEPTITUDE IN FAILING GAIN MAXIMUM PUBLIC RELATIONS VALUE FROM VISIT, BUT SENATOR LEFT KUWAIT APPARENTLY UNPRETURBED OVER FACT HE HAD ONLY MET WITH ONE CABINET-LEVEL OFFICIAL.
MAU

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